

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: ...Francis Mabbett.....

**APPLICATION
REFERENCE**

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF
DEVELOPMENT**

APPLICATION SITE

26/00592/TPO

Sweet Chestnut - Remove stem

Dormer Cottage

Canonsfield Road

Welwyn

Hertfordshire

AL6 0QA

Submitted Plan Nos

Location plan

1.0 Policies

2.0 **Site History**

20/02308/TPO- T1-T8 Sweet Chestnut - Pollard to 35ft **Conditional Consent**

3.0 **Representations**

None received.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

T1 Sweet Chestnut (applicant's plan) subject of this application is located in the rear garden to the SW of the site. The tree is not visible to the public realm. The site is not within a Conservation Area, but the trees are protected by a tree preservation order TPO/032.

4.2 **Proposal & Reason**

Sweet chestnut stem to remove due to huge gash in the base of the stem - the stem is part of a 5 stemmed, previously coppiced sweet chestnut tree. The client has young grandchildren that are in the garden frequently, also the tree is very close to an out building and has potential to do a lot of damage if it falls on it.

4.3 **Key Issues**

The key issue for consideration is whether the reason provided justifies proposed works and the appropriateness of these given that the tree is protected by a Tree Preservation Order.

- 4.3.1 T1 Sweet Chestnut is a old coppiced tree with five separate stems present that have been topped at approx. 8m previously. Regrowth from the topping points appears good indicating normal vitality. A number of the stems have historic longitudinal wounds at the base that rise up to approx. 2m from ground level on the NE side. The stem proposed to be removed has the largest wound and although no obvious decay was present it is unlikely to occlude. The removal of this stem is unlikely to severely impact the amenity value or form of the tree and although not considered an imminent risk it is unlikely to recover or be worthy of long-term retention. The stump is likely to reshoot as with normal coppicing and overtime produce a new set of poles.

4.4 **Conclusion**

- 4.4.1 The removal of the stem is unlikely to be detrimental to the health or amenity of the remaining tree and will mitigate any future potential risk of collapse due to unseen decay within the wounded stem.

4.5 **Alternative Options**

- 4.5.1 None applicable

4.6 **Pre-Commencement Conditions**

4.6.1 None applicable

5.0 **Recommendation**

5.1 That planning permission be **GRANTED** subject to the following conditions:-

1. The works shall be carried out to conform to British Standard 3998 - Recommendations for Tree Work and in a manner so as to ensure that the natural and aesthetic appearance of the trees are maintained to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: In order to ensure that the works are undertaken to an acceptable standard which will not harm the health of the tree(s).

2. The works shall be undertaken only by a competent and suitably qualified arboricultural contractor or tree surgeon as capable of carrying them out to an acceptable standard.

Reason: In order that the works are undertaken by a suitably qualified contractor.

Signed  Paul Chaston Determining Officer	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Date: 10 April 2026	